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AP Literature Pd. 4

“This I Believe”

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Earth Song

When I watch people playing or listening to music, I can see the magic it has over them; I witness a beautiful phenomena where music clusters the surrounding people together and draws others in. I catch a spark in their eyes as they recognize a song, sing the lyrics, or hum part of the melody. It’s amazing, really. And that’s why I believe that music unites the world.

The world is torn apart by feuds and misunderstandings, but music has a peculiar way of bridging those gaps. Music is the common factor between us all. When people are getting to know one another, people don’t ask “Do you like music?” They ask “What’s your favorite kind of music?” because everyone loves music. Everyone has a favorite song, a favorite artist, a favorite genre--there are plenty to choose from. The common interest in music itself brings people together. It allows a topic of conversation amongst people around the world if nothing else.

Another wonderful thing about music is that it transcends the language barrier. Language, one of the many causes of separation in the world, can be completely ignored when it comes to music. A song doesn’t need words but rather a method of how the music is played to be expressed. An orchestra in Europe can record a song that listeners on the other side of the world can understand exactly what those musicians were expressing through their music. People young and old, those with and without the ability to read music, can appreciate the message being portrayed. This relationship, between musician and listener, joins two sides of the world together because they understand one another.

Music has a peculiar way of affecting people. A slow and sincere song can bring tears to its listeners; a light and cheerful song can pep up those feeling down. For example, when I listen to “Nessun Dorma” I feel the emotion build up inside of me and I get the goosebumps. Whenever I listen to “In the Mood” by Glenn Miller I just cannot help but want to dance no matter what I was feeling before I started listening to the song. For some reason, songs spark some thing in our brains that control how we feel and sometimes how we act. This kind of power that music has can bring people together like no other force can thanks to this strange effect.

Even now as I write these words, I am listening to music. No doubt there are at least a hundred people listening to the same song at this exact moment and millions more who can say they enjoy the song. I am connected to over a million people--people I do not know, people who I do not share a language or a religion with, people who live in the next country over and beyond. But this music, this wonderful song that lasts just a few minutes, has brought us all together.